

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15 and 17-20 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15 and 17-20 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 101 Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 15 and 17-20 were previously amended to recite a tangible computer accessible medium (see, Applicants' Amendment filed June 27, 2005). The Examiner states that this change is insufficient to render the claim tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable. However, claim 15 clearly recites a "tangible computer-accessible medium, comprising software instructions executable to implement". Thus, the Examiner's statement that the claim does not require a tangible embodiment so as to be executable is completely nonsensical in light of the explicit claim language of a tangible medium comprising executable instructions. To expedite prosecution of the application, claims 15 and 17-20 have been further amended; however, Applicants do not view this as an amendment made for any reason of patentability since the claims were already in compliance with § 101. Withdrawal of the § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

Section 103(a) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8-9, 11-12, 15 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montero et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0143958) (hereinafter "Montero") in view of Bauer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,870,759) (hereinafter "Bauer"), claims 6, 13 and 19 as being unpatentable over Montero in view of Bauer and further in view of Morris (U.S. Patent 5,813,017), and claims 7, 14 and 20 as being unpatentable over Montero in view of Bauer, and further in view of Lin, et al. (U.S.

Patent 6,546,135) (hereinafter "Lin"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claim 1, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Montero in view of Bauer fails to teach or suggest a first application server of the plurality of application servers, comprising a client state of the session data accessible to processes executing within the application server, wherein the first application server is configured to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, wherein to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, the first application server is configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes. Montero teaches a system in which a central database of session data is updated with session data modified in individual application servers periodically, such as according to a certain time interval or after a certain number of changes (Montero, Abstract and paragraphs [0026] and [0049]). Montero does not teach claim 1 as recited above. The Examiner, regarding the rejection of claim 1, cites paragraphs [0011], [0014], [0020], [0026], [0035], [0036], [0042] and [0046] of Montero. However, these paragraphs do not mention *an application server configured to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, wherein to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, the first application server is configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes*. Instead, paragraphs [0011] and [0014] describe how previous methods utilize cookies for servicing session requests, and paragraph [0020] describes a previous method that updates the session data each time the data is changed. Paragraph [0026] summarizes Montero's system including a description of how application servers write copies of session data to common shared databases at designated, periodic times, or after a specified number of changes to session data have been made. Paragraphs [0035] and [0036] describes the purpose of application servers in a server farm with an associated database server for storing backup data of the client sessions. Paragraph [0042] describes how the use of a load balance scheme may ensure that http requests in a particular session are always sent to the same application server. Finally, paragraph [0046] merely mentions that if enough memory is not provided to hold

all of the active session data, creation of a new session may result in the need to write out the oldest locally stored http session to the shared database.

Thus, none of the Examiner's cited passages mentions *an application server configured to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, wherein to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, the first application server is configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes*. In fact, nowhere does Montero teach these features of claim 1. In contrast, Montero teaches only that application servers save their copies of session data to the shared session database periodically to reduce the number of writes to the database, thereby reducing strain on system resources. For instance, Montero teaches, "instead of updating the session data in the database after every request or every attribute change, each of the servers maintains a fully current copy of the http session data in its local RAM, but writes a copy of the session data to the central database only at specified intervals" (emphasis added, Montero, paragraph [0039]). Since Montero specifically teaches away from updating the session data in the database after every request or every attribute change, there would be no reason to track individual attribute accesses in Montero. Thus, it would not make sense to modify Montero according to the teachings of another reference to track individual attribute accesses.

As noted above, Montero's application servers do not track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state by storing information identifying the accessed individual attributes. Instead, an application server in Montero's system either keeps track of how long it has been since its respective copy of the session data has been copied to the session database or keeps track of the number of times its copy of the session data has been changed or both. Rather than keep track of the *individual accesses of particular attributes by storing information identifying the accessed individual attributes*, Montero refers to the number of times a local copy of session data has been changed. For example, Montero describes how a local copy of the session data may be copied to the session database "after 3 updates to the local copy of the session data" (Montero, paragraph [0049]). Montero additionally teaches comparing a "last access time" to the

current time to determine whether a local copy data has been modified (Montero, paragraph [0053]). Comparing the numbers of updates or last write times of the session data to specified values is not *tracking individual accesses of the attributes of the client state, wherein to track the individual accesses, the first application server is configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes*. Moreover, Montero's system looks at updates to the session data as a whole, but clearly does not identify individual accessed attributes of the session data. Furthermore, as noted above, it would not make sense in Montero's system to identify particular accessed attributes of the session data since Montero specifically writing a copy of the session data to the central database "only at specified intervals" "instead of updating the session data in the database after every request or every attribute change". Thus, Montero in view of Bauer fails to teach or suggest *an application server configured to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, wherein to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, the first application server is configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes*.

The Examiner admits that Montero fails to teach this feature of claim 1, and instead relies on Bauer. However, Bauer teaches that each of the clients (which are not application servers) accesses its own client database, which may later be synchronized with the single central database by the database synchronizer. Applicants note that a database as described in Bauer refers to a collection of data that is manipulated by clients. More specifically, Bauer's data is described as tabular data for order information, delivery status, or field service information (1:4-14), which may be manipulated by clients in a database. The order information, delivery status, or field service information stored in the database in Bauer is not *session data*. Session data is a well-understood concept in the art of application servers, and the data stored in the databases in Bauer is clearly not described as session data. Bauer does not pertain to the field of session data as used by application servers. Thus, the Examiner's reliance on Bauer to teach an application server configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes of session data is clearly improper.

Since Bauer has nothing to do with application servers or session data, there would be no reason to apply its teachings to Montero, especially in light of the fact that Montero specifically teaches writing a copy of the session data to the central database “only at specified intervals” “instead of updating the session data in the database after every request or every attribute change”. Thus, for at least the reasons provided above, Montero in view of Bauer fails to teach or suggest *wherein to track accesses of the individual attributes of the client state, the first application server is configured to store information identifying the accessed individual attributes.*

Furthermore, the Examiner has failed to provide a proper motivation for modifying the system of Montero. The Examiner states that, “it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Bauer to the system of Montero in order to **reduce communication costs and delays in data synchronization**” (emphasis added). Applicants remind the Examiner that it is not proper to pick and chose isolated teachings from a reference. Instead, the Examiner must consider the reference as a whole; it is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination. M.P.E.P. § 2141.02, last paragraph; *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). Additionally, *In re Grasselli*, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983). As stated by the Examiner, and as disclosed in Bauer, column 1, lines 55-60, and elsewhere, Bauer’s system seeks to **minimize delays in synchronization of modified client data with a database storing data that is not fully current**; however, Montero **purposefully introduces delays by only updating at specified time intervals**. More specifically, as noted above, Montero teaches that application servers save their fully-current copies of session data to the shared session database periodically in order to reduce the number of writes to the database, thereby reducing strain on system resources. For instance, Montero teaches, “instead of updating the session data in the database after every request or every attribute change, each of the servers maintains a fully current copy of the http session data in its local RAM, but writes a copy of the session data to the central database only at specified intervals” (emphasis added, Montero, paragraph [0039]). Thus,

Montero reduces the number of writes to the database by purposefully introducing delays in the form of periodic writes, and maintains a fully current copy of the session data while Bauer, on the other hand, minimizes delay in synchronization of data between the client and the database, where neither the client nor the database maintain a fully current copy of the tabular data. Therefore, Montero and Bauer clearly teach away from their combination. It is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination. *In re Grasselli*, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Furthermore, even were Montero and Bauer combinable, which Applicants argue they are not, as argued above, the suggested combination would not provide all the features recited in claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons provided above, the rejection of claim 1, and those claims dependent therefrom, is not supported by the cited art, and removal thereof is requested. Similar remarks above apply to claims 8, 9 and 15.

Regarding claim 3, Montero in view of Bauer fails to teach or suggest that *the first application server is further configured to track mutable individual attributes and not track immutable individual attributes*. As discussed above in regard to claim 1, the cited art does not teach or suggest tracking an application server tracking accesses of individual attributed of session data, let alone tracking mutable individual attributes and not tracking immutable individual attributes. Thus, for at least the reasons provided above, the rejection of claim 3 is not supported by the cited art, and removal thereof is requested.

Applicants also assert that numerous other ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the rejection has been shown to be unsupported for the independent claims, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

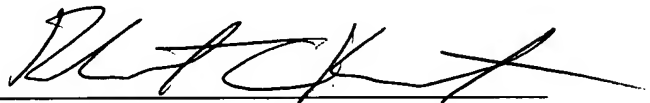
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such an extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-11800/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Kowert
Reg. No. 39,255
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8850

Date: January 20, 2006